

# THE NEW INQUISITION

## Cult Awareness or the Cult of Intelligence?

**A self-appointed cult-busting group has been found to have sinister roots.**

### Part 1

by Glenn Krawczyk

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### The Politics of Religion

In recent decades a new type of mercenary has appeared on the social landscape. Like others, these too are available for hire, and if put under the spotlight will argue that they fight not for money but in pursuit of a 'worthy' cause. Known as 'deprogrammers' or 'exit counsellors', their claims warning of the dangers of so-called 'cults' are widely accepted by a poorly-informed public—even though more aware individuals often notice with some alarm that the methodology employed by these mercenaries to 'liberate' their targets is more than a little unorthodox, and often violent and oppressive. Dig a little deeper and you will discover that behind the veneer of Orwellian double-speak generated by this new Inquisition, a much darker truth is hiding.

Any serious investigation of the anti-religious movement reveals that its foundations and functions are primarily political, and that many of its highest profile members are allies of clandestine government agencies which regularly employ covert tactics to manipulate the political processes of entire nations and undermine the personal autonomy of their individual citizens. Similarly, the techniques used by 'anti-cult' organisations parallel those employed by such agencies and are justified with other emotive labels such as the 'fight against Communism' or the 'war against drugs', namely:

(1) a problem is covertly created; (2) it is blown out of proportion with a healthy dose of propaganda; (3) a tough but 'necessary' solution is offered to the frightened public by the creators of the problem; and (4) laws are subsequently introduced which further reduce personal freedoms and rights under the guise of protecting us.

The real danger of the growing 'cult awareness' industry is that it is not a movement concerned with human rights. It is simply another expression of the smiling face of fascism. In 1993, the Cult Awareness Network's (CAN) Executive Director, Cynthia Kissler, told newspapers:

*"Cults also hurt society when their members undermine the democratic process by voting in solid blocks [sic] or by providing free voluntary labour to campaigns in return for favours from candidates."*

Concerned lawyers have warned:

*"To most people this would serve as a model description of healthy participation by an interest group or party in representative democracy. But apparently to CAN, only groups of which it approves should be allowed to vote in "blocks" and volunteer for political campaigns. When groups CAN doesn't like ('cults') participate in electoral politics, it 'undermines the democratic process'."*

*"Frighteningly, the FBI appears to share this way of thinking. In 1988 and again in 1991 the Bureau launched investigations of the New Alliance Party, a left-wing electoral party, rationalising this harassment by labelling NAP a 'political/cult organisation'."*

### Fuelling the Engines of Control

The problem inherent in considering the question of individual religious (and political) freedom is that by defining any target as a 'cult', organisations such as CAN and their international associates automatically ensure reasonably widespread public acceptance of any action they take against such a group or its members simply because the label has such sinister connotations.

Events such as the Jonestown massacre in 1978 have permanently implanted such a response in most people old enough to remember that tragic event, and more recent events at Waco achieved a similar result in much of the younger generation as well as reinforcing it amongst the general public.

Might events such as these be intentionally created to serve exactly such a purpose, amongst others? Serious allegations concerning the role of covert government influence in triggering both these events, as well as questions regarding the peripheral involvement of government-linked 'cult specialists', have not been addressed in any open manner by the agencies or individuals involved.

But what really took place at Jonestown? In a study of the People's Temple published in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* in 1980, Professor James T. Richardson, Professor of Sociology at the University of Nevada, noted:

*"Because of the negligence of US officials in not ordering immediate autopsies on those who died in Guyana, we will never know how many died by suicide and how many were murdered. Dr Leslie Mootoo, Chief Medical Examiner for the Guyana Government and the first medically-trained person to arrive at Jonestown after the event, told reporters, 'I do not believe there were ever more than 200 persons who died voluntarily'. He said this after an inspection of a number of bodies and of the scene of the deaths. This question has been most fully discussed in a series of articles by Deirdre Griswold in Workers World (24 November, 15 and 22 December 1978), a series which also poses some questions about possible CIA involvement in the Jonestown tragedy. Griswold, who accuses the US Government of deliberately destroying evidence by not performing autopsies, points out a number of intriguing ties between People's Temple and the CIA. She suggests that some of the white leaders in Jonestown may have been CIA agents, and Jonestown may have been a tragic pawn in political struggles involving the US, Cuba and Guyana."*<sup>3</sup>

Richardson concludes the paper by stating:

*"I would add that the well-publicised 'official studies' of the tragedy only briefly address the conspiracy question, and they do not raise the medical examination problem at all. Such reports only seem interested in absolving certain groups and individuals of any blame while scapegoating others... Only someone who has security clearance to read the many classified sections of the House Staff Investigative Group Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and other classified material can possibly give those answers. Efforts I have made to delve further into those aspects of the tragedy have not been fruitful, in part because of not having the security clearances"*<sup>4</sup>.

After the tragic horror of Jonestown it is not at all surprising that the public are frightened of groups that get labelled as 'cults', and subsequently classify their members as potentially psychologically dangerous. The question remains, however: are all non-mainstream religious and political organisations worthy of the label or have the public been manipulated into accepting this narrow point of view?

Allegations of CIA involvement in Jonestown, agency support of Nazi racial ideology, and the possibility that a well-controlled mass medical experiment was performed at the Jonestown commune are explored thoroughly in the book, *Was Jonestown a CIA Medical Experiment?: A Review of the Evidence*, by Michael Meiers.<sup>5</sup>

The author argues that Jonestown was the final field experiment in the CIA's *MKULTRA* behaviour-modification program, and that Jim Jones was a long-serving CIA asset whom Ronald Reagan's Californian administration had covertly cooperated with for some years before the tragic finale in Guyana. For example, Meiers reports that in 1965 when Jones and the People's Temple first moved to the Ukiah, California, area:

*"...the group immediately infiltrated the Mendocino State Mental Hospital which would provide not only test persons (TPs as the Nazis called them) for his (Jones) preliminary medical experiments, but also a training ground for the medical technicians needed for the ultimate experiment. Within a very short period of time, every employee of the hospital was a member of the People's Temple. From nurses to therapists, from counsellors to cleaning women, every worker on the facility was replaced by a Temple member. California virtually gave the Mendocino State Mental Hospital to Jim Jones.*

*"The Mendocino Plan was a pilot program of the federal government designed to evaluate the feasibility of deinstitutionalising the mentally ill.*

*"Dennis Denny, Mendocino's Director of Social Services, has speculated that the Mendocino Plan was the sole reason that Jim Jones moved to Ukiah.*

*"By 1972, the absence of mental patients at Mendocino State Hospital prompted then-Governor Ronald Reagan to close the facility which, after all, was the desired result of the Mendocino Plan.*

*"The Temple's medical staff conducted several experiments in behaviour modification, both on the mental patients in their care and on the general congregation during the organisation's stay in California.*

*"Sensory deprivation was also widely employed as a means of breaking a test subject. Early Temple experiments in sensory deprivation are not well-documented, but it is known that Jones imparted his knowledge to Donald DeFreeze, who utilised the technique to brainwash Patricia Hearst... Tom Grubbs, a psychologist with the University of California, was in charge of "the box". Grubbs, who was also principal of the Jonestown school, personally constructed Jones' sensory deprivation chamber."*<sup>6</sup>

Renowned psychologist R. D. Laing, author of *The Politics of Experience*, once stated during an interview in *Omni* magazine:

*"In the late 'sixties it became apparent to the elite with responsibilities for 'control of the population' that the old idea of putting people in the proverbial bin and keeping them there for life—warehousing people—wasn't cost-effective. The Reagan Administration in California was one of the first to realise this. So they had to rethink just what the name of the game was. That has led to a schism between what is said to the general public and what is practised by the executive in control of mental health. The same problem prevails across Europe and the Third World.*

*"To see what is happening, look at the textbook or manual called DSM-III: The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual on Mental Disorders (third edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association). Translated into economic and political terms, mental disorder means undesired mental states and behaviour. The criteria for mental disorder in DSM-III include any unusual perceptual experience, magical thinking, clairvoyance, telepathy, sixth sense, sense of a person not actually present. You're allowed to sense the presence of a dead relative for three weeks after their death. After that it becomes a criterion of mental disorder to have those feelings.*

**In other words, any individual who communicates to any group a religious, spiritual or political view that is undesirable in the eyes of establishment power-brokers can be labelled not only as a 'cult' member, but may also be classified as having a psychiatric disorder.**

"...these are not exceptional examples out of DSM-III. The overall drift is what contemporary modern psychiatry, epitomised by this DSM manual translated into eighteen languages, is imposing all over the world—a mandate to strip anyone of their civil liberties, of habeas corpus; and to apply involuntary incarceration, chemicalisation of a person, electric shocks, and non-injurious torture; to homogenise people who are out of line. Presented as a medical operation, it is an undercover operation."

### Nazi Science vs Personal Freedom

One of the leading figures in the anti-religious movement is Dr Louis Jolyon West. In 1973, whilst Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California (where Jonestown-linked psychologist Tom Grubbs also hails from), and Director of its Neuropsychiatric Institute, West proposed the creation of The Center for the Study and Reduction of Violence. This facility was proposed to treat "undesirable behaviour" employing the very latest in neuropsychiatric and genetic manipulation techniques. Exactly what rated as "undesirable" was never qualified publicly. Despite vigorous support from then-Governor Reagan, the range of radical behaviour-modification practices that were to be conducted at the facility were considered so extreme that the Californian legislature refused to support them and instead labelled them as "Nazi science".

West is a veteran of the CIA's ongoing behaviour-modification research programs and operations, having been involved in classified operations since at least 1953, as revealed by the agency's own documentation.<sup>8</sup> He is also a prime mover in the Cult

Awareness Network (CAN) for whom he has regularly consulted and lectured for nearly two decades. As is the *modus operandi* of CAN 'deprogrammers' today, unwilling subjects marked for treatment at West's violence research centre were to be kidnapped and forcibly brought in for treatment. Considering his well-documented anti-religious attitude, it is not unreasonable to speculate that such facilities would have been used to treat 'cult' members had they been allowed to go ahead, as around 1983, during his lectures West began calling for the development of a "medical model" for the elimination of what he considered "fake" religions.

Should we accept such judgments from a man whose specialties include interrogation employing sensory deprivation, hypnosis and psychoactive drugs, behaviour modification by means of electrical stimulation of the brain, and the application of electronic telemetry technologies to track and monitor subjects?

### Are You on the Blacklist?

So just what types of organisations qualify as 'cults' to this psychiatric Dr Strangelove? In a paper co-written by West and fellow psychologist and CAN consultant Dr Margaret Singer, entitled "Cults, Quacks and Nonprofessional Psychotherapies", which appears in *DSM-III: The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, the following types of groups can be classified as 'cults':

- (1) neo-Christian cults; (2) Hindu and Eastern religious cults; (3) occult, witchcraft and satanism cults; (4) spiritualist cults; (5) Zen and other Sino-Japanese philosophical mystical cults; (6) race cults; (7) flying saucer and outer-space cults; (8) psychological

## CAN: From Mind Control to a Malicious Assault on Religious Freedom

The Cult Awareness Network relies upon members of the psychiatric community whose theories on mind control have been thoroughly discredited.



L. J. West



M. Singer



R. J. Lifton

DISCREDITED  
MIND CONTROL  
THEORIES

Started as the Citizens Freedom Foundation, whose prime mover was convicted felon Ted Patrick, the group changed its name to the Cult Awareness Network in an attempt to publicly distance itself from the violent and illegal practices involved in kidnapping and deprogramming.

CITIZENS  
FREEDOM  
FOUNDATION (CFF)  
Founded 1974

NAME  
CHANGE  
1985/86

CULT  
AWARENESS  
NETWORK (CAN)  
1985/86 to now

The president of CAN, Michael Rokos, resigned his position when his previously hidden arrest record was exposed.



M. Rokos

CAN's Ex-President



C. Kissler  
CAN Executive  
Director



S. Hassan  
Deprogrammer



T. Patrick  
CFF Prime Mover  
Deprogrammer

CAN's members are engaged in kidnapping for profit.

FOCUS  
CAN AFFILIATE

Source: "A Criminal Assault on Religious Freedom", published by The Church of Scientology International



cults; (9) political cults; and (10) certain communal and self-help or self-improvement groups that, over time, become transformed into cults.<sup>9</sup>

In other words, any individual who communicates to any group a religious, spiritual or political view that is undesirable in the eyes of establishment power-brokers can be labelled not only as a 'cult' member, but may also be classified as having a psychiatric disorder.

In this same paper, West and Singer promote the use of the deprogramming techniques practised by CAN and individuals like its founder Ted Patrick, who has been described as "the prime force in organising the group".<sup>10</sup> They describe a deprogrammer as a person "who presents to a cultist information that may cause him to reconsider his commitment to the cult and to leave it" after the members are pulled away "legally or even bodily".<sup>11</sup>

Ted Patrick's own anti-cult book, entitled *Let Our Children Go!*, describes the deprogramming technique in somewhat more revealing terms:

*"Deprogramming is the term, and it may be said to involve kidnapping at the very least, quite often assault and battery, almost invariably conspiracy to commit a crime, and illegal restraint."<sup>12</sup>*

Patrick's vigilante 'counselling' techniques have earned him a long list of criminal charges and convictions dating back to June 1974, which include kidnapping, conspiracy, false imprisonment, abduction and assault, possession of cocaine, and violation of probation. A case brought against Patrick in 1976 by one of his victims revealed that he had held her prisoner for 86 days in 12 different locations. The court found he had "seized, restrained and subjected" his victim to "frightful experiences" with "no legal justification".<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, he was still hailed as a model deprogrammer by CAN whose twenty to twenty-five full-time American-based deprogrammers still employ such techniques today. In 1992 they conducted more than 1,800 'deprogramming' operations, for which payment varied between US\$5,000 and US\$20,000 each. Today, they also provide a framework for the establishment and operations of other such groups throughout the world.

The argument that the establishment of CAN may have been politically motivated is supported by the fact that Ted Patrick, the founder of the contemporary anti-cult movement and perhaps the first professional deprogrammer, was an aide to Ronald Reagan whilst he was Governor of California and at the time he announced his plan to establish behaviour-modification facilities as proposed by Louis Jolyon West.

### **Inciting Public Demand for Control**

As public and political outrage over West's proposed violence research centre peaked in 1974, events began occurring that alarmed California's white middle-class and which, not co-incidentally, might well have kindled public demand for such facilities. Some of the most widely publicised of these events were crimes conducted by the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) who rose to notoriety when they kidnapped Patricia Hearst, daughter of wealthy establishment media mogul, Randolph Hearst. The revolutionary activities of the SLA held many Californians in a constant state of fear throughout the period from 4th February 1974, the date of Patty Hearst's kidnap, to 18th September 1975, the date of her arrest.

First, the SLA murdered a popular school headmaster in Oakland and warned of a coming racial war between blacks and whites. Then, the previously respectable Patty Hearst became a participant in their 'urban guerrilla warfare', which included such acts as armed bank-robbery. Meanwhile, the public were fed speculative articles by the media suggesting that the "Marxist" SLA must have been brainwashing Hearst into participating in such antisocial acts. With the memory of the gruesome Manson murders—also replete with brainwashing and race-war claims—still strong in the public mind, the effect of the message being broadcast was loud and clear. If you got mixed up with a cult who practised *brainwashing*, it might be you who could be enticed into participating in antisocial acts.

On 17th May 1974, LAPD surrounded the SLA's headquarters located in a small bungalow on the south side of the city. Although there were known to be only six individuals inside, LAPD brought in 150 police officers, 100 FBI agents, 100 sheriff's officers, around 15 highway patrolmen, and 25 motorcycle officers to control traffic.

Television news crews and their cameras arrived, set up their live network feeds, and then bang in the middle of the prime-time dinner-hour on a Friday night, around five thousand rounds of ammunition from automatic rifles, pistols and machine-guns, as well as tear-gas grenades and a barrage of noise from the police megaphones put an end to this 'black/Marxist/terrorist/left-wing brainwashing threat to democracy'.

The operation was labelled by the establishment media as "the greatest single shoot-out in Los Angeles history" and the public were led to believe that they had just been saved from one of the most threatening subversive political 'cults' America had ever seen. In reality, the SLA consisted of just nine people with very little power, but as had been demonstrated throughout the previous decades, a healthy dose of psychological warfare could readily ensure that ordinary folk remained in

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a perpetual state of fear over the threat of lone gunmen, rioting blacks, terrorists, political activists and manic cult-figureheads, and make them demand tough new laws and government initiatives to bring such antisocial elements under control.

This dangerous psychological warfare practice continues today with the aid of disturbing and endless media coverage of cases like that of Jeffrey Dahmer (beware of serial killers!), David Koresh (beware of religious fanatics!), O. J. Simpson (beware of blacks, even if they appear to be well-educated and popular!), and so on.

### **Reinforcing The Big Lie**

At the media circus that was thinly disguised as the trial of Patty Hearst, it was none other than Dr Louis Jolyon West who was called to give expert testimony on whether or not she had been 'brainwashed' by the SLA's leader, Donald DeFreeze. In her autobiography, entitled *Every Secret Thing*, Hearst gave an interesting account of her examination sessions with West. She wrote:

*"When the first of the psychiatrists came to see me on September 30, just eleven days after my arrest, I simply crumbled under his scrutiny. I cried, murmuring and mumbling out replies that were not answers to his questions. He thought I was refusing to cooperate with him. This was Dr Louis Jolyon West, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at UCLA, Director of the Neuropsychiatric Institute, Psychiatrist-in-Chief of UCLA*

Hospitals, a licensed M.D., Chairman of the Council on Research and Development of the American Psychiatric Association, psychiatric consultant to the Air Force, author of books and studies on prisoners of war, an internationally-recognised expert in his field. I thought he had a creepy hypnotic voice. A tall, heavy-set man who appeared to be kindly, I suspected "Jolly" of being too smooth, too soothing to be trusted."<sup>14</sup>

Hearst later commented: "Dr West, I thought, was inordinately interested in the sex that went on within the SLA, particularly in the lesbian relationships."<sup>15</sup>

West also called in Dr Martin Orne, who was introduced to Hearst simply as a psychiatrist, but whom we know today as having been the head of the Office of Naval Research's Committee on Hypnosis, and who helped develop the coercive use of hypnotic mind-control. Hearst reported that she "thought him very strange. Some of his questions were most extraordinary. He acted or commented as though he did not believe a word I was saying."<sup>16</sup>

Whilst conducting research for the CIA's *MKULTRA* behaviour-modification program and being supported by the documented CIA funding fronts, The Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology and The Scientific Engineering Institute, Dr Orne wrote papers that included one, entitled "Hypnotically Induced Hallucinations", which was subsequently published in 1975 in a collection co-edited by West, entitled *Hallucinations: Behavior, Experience and Theory*. In the paper, Orne states:

"Even in present-day America, when an individual hears God speak to him it is a toss-up whether he will become a successful leader of a new religious sect or will come to the attention of a psychiatric unit."<sup>17</sup>

Continued in the next issue of NEXUS Magazine...

#### Footnotes:

1. "What is the Cult Awareness Network and What Role did it Play in Waco?", Report prepared by Ross & Green (Attorneys), Washington, DC, USA, July 1993, p. 9.
2. Ibid.
3. James T. Richardson, "People's Temple and Jonestown: A Corrective Comparison and Critique", *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (1980), 19(3):240.
4. Ibid., pp. 252-253.
5. Michael Meiers, "Was Jonestown a CIA Medical Experiment?: A Review of the Evidence", *Studies in American Religion* (1988), vol. 35, published by The Edward Mellin Press.
6. Ibid., pp. 386-388.
7. R. D. Laing interview reproduced in "New World Order Psychiatry", *Omni Magazine* (original issue number unknown).
8. Alan W. Schefflin and Edward Opton, Jr, *The Mind Manipulators*, Paddington Press, New York & London, 1978, pp. 149-50. See *NEXUS*, vol. 2, nos. 11 & 12 for comprehensive details on West's behaviour-modification history.
9. Louis J. West, M.D., Margaret Thaler Singer, Ph.D., "Cults, Quacks and Nonprofessional Psychotherapies", *DSM-III: The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, The American Psychiatric Association, p. 3249.
10. *The New York Times*, 2 September 1974.
11. West and Singer, "Cults, Quacks and Nonprofessional Psychotherapies", *DSM-III*, p. 3251.
12. Ted Patrick (with Tom Dulack), *Let Our Children Go!*, New York, 1976.
13. *Helander vs Patrick*, Bridgeport, Connecticut, USA, 1976.
14. Patricia Campbell Hearst (with Alvin Moscow), *Every Secret Thing*, Pinnacle Books, New York, USA, 1982, p. 407.
15. Ibid., p. 408.
16. Ibid., p. 411.
17. R. K. Siegel and L. J. West (editors), *Hallucinations: Behavior, Experience and Theory*, University of California, Los Angeles, USA, 1975, pp. 211-212.